CLEAN ENERGY ACCOUNTING PROJECT



Recognition of Standard Delivery Renewable Energy in Different Programs and Standards

MARCH 2021



Many standards and programs have policies around recognizing the use of renewable energy that is not actively procured by the reporting entity (Standard Delivery RE). These policies are communicated explicitly, implicitly or in the use of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions factors. Below is a representative summary of current standard and program policies.

Quick Lookup Table

	No	Yes, for RE			Yes, for GHG		
Standard/Program	Not recognized	Explicit recognition for RE	Implicit recognition for RE	Recognized for RE in some cases	Explicit recognition in GHG accounting	Implicit recognition in GHG accounting	
GHG Accounting Standards							
GHG Protocol Scope 2 Guidance					Х		
ISO 14064-1 Greenhouse gases — Part 1: Specification with guidance at the organization level for quantification and reporting of greenhouse gas emissions and removals						Х	
Count	0	0	0	0	1	1	
Yes/No Count	0	0 0			2	2	
GHG Inventories and Reporting Platforms							
CDP						Х	
The Climate Registry (TCR), Carbon Footprint Registry, Water- Energy Nexus Registry						Х	
Count						~	
Count	0	0	0	0	0	2	
Yes/No Count	0	0	0 0	0	0	2	
Yes/No Count RE Purchaser Recognition and Green Power Leadership Program	0 0 ms	0	0	0	2	2	
Yes/No Count RE Purchaser Recognition and Green Power Leadership Program CDP Climate Change Scoring Methodology	0 0 ms	0	0	0	2	2 2 X	
Yes/No Count RE Purchaser Recognition and Green Power Leadership Program CDP Climate Change Scoring Methodology Green-e [®] Marketplace	0 0 ms	0	0	0 X	2	2 2 X	
Yes/No Count RE Purchaser Recognition and Green Power Leadership Program CDP Climate Change Scoring Methodology Green-e [®] Marketplace RE100	0 0 ms	0	0	0 X X X	2	2 2 X	
Yes/No Count RE Purchaser Recognition and Green Power Leadership Program CDP Climate Change Scoring Methodology Green-e [®] Marketplace RE100 TCR, Climate Registered	0 0 ms	0	0	0 X X	2	2 2 X X	
Yes/No Count RE Purchaser Recognition and Green Power Leadership Program CDP Climate Change Scoring Methodology Green-e [®] Marketplace RE100 TCR, Climate Registered U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Green Power Partnership	0 0 ms		0	0 X X		2 2 X	
Yes/No Count RE Purchaser Recognition and Green Power Leadership Program CDP Climate Change Scoring Methodology Green-e* Marketplace RE100 TCR, Climate Registered U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Green Power Partnership Count	0 0 ms	0	0	0 × × 2	02	2 2 × ×	



	No	Ye	es, for F	Yes, for GHG		
Standard/Program	Not recognized	Explicit recognition for RE	Implicit recognition for RE	Recognized for RE in some cases	Explicit recognition in GHG accounting	Implicit recognition in GHG accounting
Independent Standards, Labels, or Guidance with a RE Use Corr Architecture 2030, ZERO Code and ZERO Code California	nponen	t				
ASHRAE 189.1-2020 Standard for the Design of High-Performance Green Buildings, International Green Construction Code (IgCC)	X			X		
ASHRAE 90.1-2019, Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low- Rise Residential Buildings	Х					
B Lab, B Impact Assessment			Х			Х
Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM), International New Construction 2016, In-Use Commercial and Residential v6.0				х		х
Climate Neutral Label						Х
Cradle to Cradle Certified™ Product Standard				Х	Х	
Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), GRI Standards 201, 302, and 305 (2016)			х			х
Green Electronics Council's EPEAT program, criteria for Computers and Displays Category	х					
Green Restaurant Association	Х					
Green Seal, GS-33 Hotels and Lodging Properties				Х		Х
ICC/ASHRAE 700-2020 National Green Building Standard			Х			
ICC IECC National Model Energy Code				Х		
ICLEI, U.S. Community Protocol for Accounting and Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions						х
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 1680.1-2018 Standard for Environmental and Social Responsibility Assessment of Computers and Displays	х					
International Living Future institute (ILFI), Living Building Challenge Standard, ZERO Energy Certification, ZERO Carbon Certification	x					
Second Nature, Climate Leadership Network, Presidents' Climate Leadership Commitments						х
Sustainability Indicator Management & Analysis Platform (SIMAP)						Х
Sustainable Apparel Coalition, the Higg Index						Х



	No	Ye	es, for F	Yes, for GHG		
Standard/Program	Not recognized	Explicit recognition for RE	Implicit recognition for RE	Recognized for RE in some cases	Explicit recognition in GHG accounting	Implicit recognition in GHG accounting
Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council (SPLC), Guidance for Leadership in Sustainable Purchasing (v2)	х					
The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) (v2.2)		Х				х
U.S. Green Building Council, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)	Х					
Count	8	1	3	5	1	10
Yes/No Count	8 9 11			1		
Total Count	9	1	3	7	2	15
Total Yes/No Count 9 11				17		

Description Table

Standard/Program	Recognize Standard Delivery RE?	Description
GHG Accounting Star	ndards	
<u>GHG Protocol Scope</u> <u>2 Guidance</u>	Yes	Utility- or supplier-specific emission factors may be used to calculate scope 2 emissions under the market-based method. These may represent a standard product offer or a differentiated product and they can reflect certificates retired for compliance purposes. Residual mix emissions factors are also included on the hierarchy of data sources for market-based scope 2 emissions calculations, and they may also include renewable energy.
ISO 14064-1 Greenhouse gases — Part 1: Specification with guidance at the organization level for quantification and reporting of green- house gas emissions and removals	Yes	The market-based method for scope 2 emissions calculations is included as an option. Standard Delivery RE can be included in "sup- plier specific emission rates" used under this method. The standard does not discuss Standard Delivery RE explicitly or the eligibility of instruments that include RPS RE.



Standard/Program	Recognize Standard Delivery RE?	Description
GHG Inventories and	Reporting Platfo	rms
CDP	Yes	An organization can use utility-specific, residual mix, and other emissions factors that include Standard Delivery RE in the calcula- tion of market-based scope 2 GHG emissions. CDP separately re- quests disclosure of voluntary purchases. Voluntary purchases may only include Standard Delivery RE incorporated in "green electricity products from an energy supplier" (e.g. green tariffs).
The Climate Registry (TCR), Carbon Footprint Registry, Water-Energy Nexus Registry	Yes	A company can use utility-specific and other emissions factors that include Standard Delivery RE in the calculation of market-based scope 2 GHG emissions.
RE Purchaser Recogn	ition and Green	Power Leadership Programs
<u>CDP</u> , Climate Change Scoring Methodology	Yes	Points are awarded in the Disclosure and Awareness levels for dis- closing market-based scope 2 emissions that can include Standard Delivery RE. Voluntary RE purchasing (not including Standard Delivery RE) is awarded points at the Management level.
<u>Green-e[*]Marketplace</u>	In some cases	Requires Green-e [*] certified, voluntary-only RE purchases, except for certain 100% renewable electricity products that include qualifying RPS resources. Companies participating in the Marketplace pro- gram can purchase entirely through those certified 100% RE prod- ucts that includes some RPS to make a 100% claim.
<u>RE100</u>	In some cases	RE100 members can claim renewable electricity usage from the "default-delivered/standard product offering" by an energy sup- plier when, and only when, the supplier is retiring Energy Attribute <u>Certificates on behalf of those customers that meet the program's</u> <u>energy source and credible claims criteria.¹ In addition, members</u> can claim Standard Delivery RE when a country's default grid mix of renewables is over 95% and when there is no mechanism for ac- tively sourcing renewable electricity from the grid in that country. Standard Delivery RE that is supported by REC/EAC retirements (e.g. in utility-specific mixes and RPS compliance) is implicitly recognized in <i>Making Credible Renewable Electricity Usage Claims (2016)</i> .
<u>TCR, Climate</u> <u>Registered</u>	Yes	Applicants can select either the location-based or market-based scope 2 figure to determine their overall carbon footprint reduction. Companies that select the market-based scope 2 figure can use Standard Delivery RE.
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Green Power Partnership	No	The Green Power Partnership is a recognition program for voluntary RE purchasing only.

1 As of the date of publication, this policy has been proposed but not yet formally adopted.



Standard/Program	Recognize Standard Delivery RE?	Description
Independent Standar	ds, Labels, or Gu	idance with a RE Use Component
Architecture 2030, ZERO Code and ZERO Code California	In some cases	Off-site RE can be procured to offset building energy. Qualifying Off-Site Renewable Energy Procurement Methods do not include Standard Delivery RE, except to the extent that "Green Retail Tariffs" may include RPS or other RE required by regulation.
ASHRAE 189.1- 2020 Standard for the Design of High-Performance Green Buildings, International Green Construction Code (IgCC)	No	Addendum J to the 2017 (part of the 2020 version) is similar to the ZERO code, but offsite procurement options are more limited and utility green pricing programs are not allowed. Addendum AA includes EFs by eGRID subregion to be used in calculations. Since the same EF is used in both baseline and performance calculations, there is no credit for the cleaner grid EFs (Standard Delivery RE).
ASHRAE 90.1- 2019, Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings	No	The standard has no minimum requirements for RE. It awards credit only for onsite RE.
<u>B Lab</u> , B Impact Assessment	Yes	Standard Delivery RE can be included in the percent of energy from renewable sources. If carbon footprint is calculated using a market-based method for scope 2 emissions, then this could include Standard Delivery RE.
Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM), International New Construction 2016, In-Use Commercial and Residential v6.0	In some cases, under energy criteria. Yes, under other credits using GHG emissions factors.	For new construction, one credit can be awarded where the build- ing is located in a country where the energy supply from the main grid is highly decarbonized due to renewables, and a feasibility study that considers the use of energy from the grid confirms that onsite RE would have an adverse effect on overall emissions. GHG emissions factors are used in calculations to assess points under various other credits, in which case a cleaner emissions factor that includes Standard Delivery RE may yield more points. Standard Delivery RE is not recognized for existing buildings.
<u>Climate Neutral</u> Label	Yes	The market-based method is allowed to calculate scope 2. Companies can use emissions factors that might include Standard Delivery RE, which might result in a lower scope 2 and require fewer offsets.
<u>Cradle to Cradle</u> <u>Certified™ Product</u> <u>Standard</u> (v4 DRAFT)	In some cases in RE credit. Yes, in offset- ting credit.	Standard Delivery RE may receive credit towards achieving the re- newable electricity targets only if there is no voluntary renewable electricity market in the applicable market region. Otherwise, orga- nizations can convert the amount of purchased electricity to GHG emissions using residual location-based emissions factors to meet the offset target instead, "which does give credit for using renew- able electricity present on the grid through that electricity's effect on the emissions rate."

Note: There may be any number of programs at the national, state/province, or local level that recognize green communities, businesses, buildings, or products and services that are not included here and that allow or recognize use of Standard Delivery Renewable Energy, either explicitly or implicitly.



Standard/Program	Recognize Standard Delivery RF?	Description
<u>Global Reporting</u> <u>Initiative (GRI)</u> , GRI Standards 201, 302, and 305 (2016)	Yes	Under 302, disclosure on fuel consumption from renewable sources can implicitly include Standard Delivery RE. For scope 2 emis- sions reporting in 305, a company can use Standard Delivery RE in the calculation of market-based emissions associated with pur- chased electricity, in accordance with the WRI/WBCSD Scope 2 Guidance. Under 201, organizations can report use of RE and RECs as methods to manage the financial implications and other risks and opportunities due to climate change.
Green Electronics Council's EPEAT program, criteria for Computers and Displays Category	No	Based on IEEE 1680.1-2018. See below.
<u>Green Restaurant</u> <u>Association</u>	No	Points are only awarded for onsite RE and voluntary RECs.
<u>Green Seal</u> , GS-33 Hotels and Lodging Properties	In some cases, under the RE requirement. Yes, under the offsetting requirement.	At the Gold level, properties must use at least 25% renewable energy via onsite production or certified RECs, or be certified through the Green-e [*] Marketplace program, or be a partner in the EPA's Green Power Partnership program. Standard Delivery RE is recognized in some cases in Green-e [*] Marketplace. See above. Properties must also offset scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions. Standard Delivery RE may implicitly be used to calculate scope 2 emissions and reduce the number of offsets required.
ICC/ASHRAE 700- 2020 National Green Building Standard	Yes	Awards points for building materials manufactured using at least 33% energy derived from renewable sources or RECs. Standard Delivery RE can implicitly be included.
ICC IECC National Model Energy Code	In some cases	Generally follows ASHRAE 90.1. See above. Contains an optional appendix that is very similar to the ZERO Code, which is only a part of the standard if a local jurisdiction chooses to adopt it. See above.
ICLEI, U.S. Community Protocol for Accounting and Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Yes	Communities use either a utility-specific or a regional emissions factor that can include Standard Delivery RE. Communities can also forecast the impact of a state RPS or of a utility's published renew- able energy goal in decreasing the emissions factor in the future.
Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 1680.1-2018 Standard for Environmental and Social Responsibility Assessment of Computers and Displays	No	Eligibility is limited to voluntary renewable energy supply options, and third-party certification is required where available. Regulatory surplus is a required criterion for qualified renewable energy standards.



Standard/Program	Recognize Standard Delivery RE?	Description
International Living Future institute (ILFI), Living Building Challenge Standard, ZERO Energy Certification, ZERO Carbon Certification	No	Recognizes onsite RE only. There is an exception allowing projects to locate renewables offsite in certain cases, but in this case, offsite projects must "provide additionality" and "be physically identifiable (i.e., location and attributes known rather than a generalized power purchase) and specifically attributed or allocated to the project," e.g. through a PPA.
<u>Second Nature,</u> Climate Leadership Network, Presidents' Climate Leadership Commitments	Yes	An organization can use Standard Delivery RE in the calculation of market-based scope 2 GHG emissions.
Sustainability Indicator Management & Analysis Platform (SIMAP)	Yes	A reporting entity can use Standard Delivery RE in the calculation of market-based scope 2 GHG emissions.
Sustainable Apparel Coalition, the Higg Index	Yes	Energy performance can be improved by switching to renewable sources that lower GHG emissions and the emissions factor for scope 2 calculations can include Standard Delivery RE.
Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council (SPLC), Guidance for Leadership in Sustainable Purchasing (v2)	No	Encourages companies to get power source information from pro- viders before purchasing. But does not provide guidance related to Standard Delivery RE.
The Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), Sustainability Tracking, Assessment & Rating System (STARS) (v2.2)	Yes	Under Clean and Renewable Energy, Standard Delivery RE can be counted when substantiated with unique RECs (explicitly disallowed under the previous v2.0). Under Greenhouse Gas Emissions, points are awarded for a low cumulative scope 1+2 footprint. Standard Delivery RE may be used in the calculation of Scope 2 emissions.
U.S. Green Building Council, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)	No, under RE credit. Yes, un- der offsetting credit.	Across rating systems, LEED projects can only count RE that they voluntarily purchase toward points under the Renewable Energy credit. RPS and Standard Delivery RE may be factored into emis- sions factors used in the Optimize Energy Performance credit, for energy savings improvements, but no points are awarded cleaner emissions factors. LEED projects can also get points for purchasing carbon offsets (proposed as an innovation credit in v4.1), in which case a cleaner emissions factor due to Standard Delivery RE would require fewer offsets to be purchased.

This research was made possible by funding from Target Corporation.



NOTICE: "Green-e" is a trademark of Center for Resource Solutions, (CRS) registered in the U.S. and other countries. All rights reserved.

This report is the copyrighted property of CRS. It cannot be copied, reprinted or used in any way without permission of CRS. If you wish to obtain permission to use our copyrighted materials, please contact CRS at +1-415-561-2100 or info@resource-solutions.org.



1012 Torney Ave. 2nd Floor; San Francisco, CA 94109 www.resource-solutions.org | 415-561-2100